

1 1. In a system including a data store, wherein the data store is indexed by a
2 content index using terms, a method for scoping a search of the data store, wherein the
3 search includes one or more terms, the method comprising:

4 an act of including an identifier in the content index, wherein the identifier
5 is implicitly included in the search;

6 an act of identifying a first list of document identifiers with the one or more
7 terms from the content index;

8 an act of identifying a second list of document identifiers with the identifier
9 from the content index; and

10 an act of comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list
11 of document identifiers to identify a subset of document identifiers that satisfy the
12 search.

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14 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of including an identifier in
15 the content index further comprises an act of building the content index.

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17 3. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of returning the
18 subset of document identifiers.

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20 4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of comparing the second
21 list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers further comprises an
22 act of restricting the search based on the identifier.

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24 5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the identifier is a folder identifier.

1 6. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the folder identifier is unique
2 across the content index.

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4 7. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the identifier is a Uniform
5 Resource Locator.

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7 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of comparing the second
8 list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers further comprises an
9 act of intersecting the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document
10 identifiers to identify the subset of document identifiers.

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12 9. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of refraining
13 from comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document
14 identifiers when the second list of document identifiers cannot reduce the first list of
15 document identifiers.

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17 10. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of refraining
18 from comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document
19 identifiers when processing only the first list of document identifiers is more efficient.
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1 11. In a system including one or more data stores, wherein a search engine
2 gathers and indexes data from the one or more data stores in a content index, a method for
3 focusing a search of the data, the search including one or more terms, the method
4 comprising:

5 an act of including one or more scope restrictions in the content index when
6 the search engine indexes the data, wherein the one or more scope restrictions are
7 non-text;

8 an act of adding a scope restriction to the search, the scope restriction
9 included in the one or more scope restrictions;

10 an act of identifying a first list of document identifiers from the content
11 index using the one or more terms of the search;

12 an act of identifying a second list of document identifiers from the content
13 index using the scope restriction; and

14 an act of focusing the first list of document identifiers by using the second
15 list of document identifiers to generate a subset list of document identifiers from
16 the first list of document identifiers.

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18 12. A method as defined in claim 11, further comprising an act of returning the
19 subset list of document identifiers to a user.
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21 13. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the act of including one or more
22 scope restrictions in the content index further comprises an act of building the content
23 index.
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1 14. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the act of focusing the first list of
2 document identifiers further comprises an act of scoping the search based on the scope
3 restriction.

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5 15. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the scope restriction is a folder
6 identifier.

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8 16. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the folder identifier is unique
9 across the content index.

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11 17. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the scope restriction is a Uniform
12 Resource Locator.

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14 18. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the act of focusing the first list of
15 document identifiers further comprises an act of intersecting the second list of document
16 identifiers with the first list of document identifiers.

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18 19. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the act of focusing the first list of
19 document identifiers further comprises an act of identifying matching document identifiers
20 from the first list of document identifiers and the second list of document identifiers,
21 wherein the matching document identifiers are included in the subset list of document
22 identifiers.

1 20. A method as defined in claim 11, further comprising an act of refraining
2 from focusing the first list of document identifiers using the second list of document
3 identifiers when the second list of document identifiers cannot reduce the first list of
4 document identifiers.

5
6 21. A method as defined in claim 11, further comprising an act of refraining
7 from focusing the first list of document identifiers when processing only the first list of
8 document identifiers is more efficient.

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10 22. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
11 performing the acts recited in claim 11.

23. In a system including a mail store partitioned into one or more mailboxes, wherein a search engine has indexed the mail store in a content index, a method for scoping a search of the mail store, the search including one or more terms, the method comprising steps for:

the search engine including one or more identifiers in the content index, wherein the one or more identifiers identify the one or more mailboxes;

including a root folder identifier in the search, the root folder identifier included in the one or more identifiers;

identifying a first list of document identifiers from the content index using the one or more terms, wherein the first list of document identifiers correspond to messages in the one or more mailboxes;

identifying a second list of document identifiers from the content index using the root folder identifier, wherein the second list of document identifiers correspond to messages in a mailbox identified by the root folder identifier; and

generating a subset list of document identifiers by removing document identifiers from the first list of document identifiers that do not match document identifiers in the second list of document identifiers.

24. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the step for generating a subset list of document identifiers further comprises a step for comparing the first list of document identifiers with the second list of document identifiers.

1 25. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the step for generating a subset
2 list of document identifiers further comprises a step of intersecting the second list of
3 document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers.

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5 26. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the step for generating a subset
6 list of document identifiers further comprises a step for identifying matching document
7 identifiers from the first list of document identifiers and the second list of document
8 identifiers, wherein the matching document identifiers are included in the subset list of
9 document identifiers.

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11 27. A method as defined in claim 23, further comprising a step for refraining
12 from generating a subset list of document identifiers when it is efficient to only process the
13 first list of document identifiers.

14
15 28. A method as defined in claim 27, further comprising a step for accessing a
16 property store for the first list of document identifiers.

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18 29. A method as defined in claim 23, further comprising a step for returning the
19 subset list of document identifiers.

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21 30. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the folder identifier is a URL.

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23 31. A method as defined in claim 23, the folder identifier is a set of URLs.

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32. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 23.